GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1011
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016
Study on Glaciers
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Himalayan glaciers are melting rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) the impact of rapid melting of glaciers on the local area and the country;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the outcome of the study along with the steps taken by the Government to prevent further melting of Himalayan glaciers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI.Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) No Madam.

(b) & (c): Does not arise.

(d) Several Government agencies such as Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Geological Survey of India (GSI), Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) are engaged in regular monitoring of glacier dynamics, snow and glacier melting, geometrical changes and climate studies on the Himalayan glaciers. A number of glaciers have been taken up for long term measurements on glacier-climate interaction in the different parts of Indian Himalayan Region by some of these agencies. A Centre for Glaciology has been set up at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology for human resource development and to carryout cutting edge research on Himalayan glaciers.

(e) Studies have revealed that the Himalayan glaciers are retreating in general but not at a rapid pace. The rate of melting/recession varies from glacier to glacier depending on topography and climatic variability of the region. While, the glaciers in the eastern and central part of Indian Himalaya are continuously retreating, some of the glaciers in the Western part of Himalaya are reported to be advancing. There is no abnormal trend of melting documented in recent years.

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